

child care and the urgent need to address the childcare cliff effect to create better opportunity for families. At the Wilkie House you can see his determination and dedication not only in tackling big projects like significant infrastructure improvements to the building and playground, but also in little things like walking kids to their parent's car at the end of the evening to say goodnight.

Like many small non-profit leaders, John dedicates an immense amount of time and effort, wears many hats, and maximizes limited resources to make his programs successful. During workdays that regularly last nearly 12 hours, John works on grants, community outreach and engagement, assisting families in overcoming barriers, and accessing resources and administration. He's constantly working on growing funding to keep up with the increase in numbers so the Wilkie House can serve more children. With all that and more on his plate, he still spends time with the kids during afterschool activities and cites it a source of great joy.

Established in September of 1917, the Wilkie House initially served as an extension of the War Recreation Board for Black Officers at Fort Des Moines, making it one of the oldest African-American community-based organizations in the state of Iowa. Today the organization's rich history is carried forward through the mission of developing character and esteem in young people through promotion of academics, building social skills, health, and recreation. The nonprofit serves nearly 400 youth ages 5–18 years and their families during the fiscal year, with the majority of participants coming from low-income families and diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant challenges to John and his team. The Wilkie House was one of the first organizations to reopen and stay open throughout the summer and for virtual learning support in the school year. They adapted to facilitate safe, full-day school year programming during virtual learning days so youth participants could better understand and complete their academics, receive tutoring and daily meals, and fulfill critical social needs through recreational and social skill building activities. It would be impossible to measure the kind of positive impact this program has had on our community during such a difficult time.

Despite the additional challenges, John and the Wilkie House team have continued to provide after school programming so kids can have snacks and dinner, engage in active and creative activities, and receive tutoring and homework assistance. They maintain summer programming with trips to the park and the zoo, volunteer opportunities, and work with youth on growth areas like problem solving, coping with change, independence, compassion, and career readiness. John also helps the Wilkie House maintain its position as a community hub by hosting evening and weekend events that bring people together for meals, fun activities, sporting events, and even musical performances from groups like the Isiserettes Drill and Drum Corp.

Before stepping up to his current role, John worked as a coordinator of a federal grant at the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families. He spent time in higher education and worked internationally in non-profits to help families living in extreme poverty, including those in slums, orphanages, and children liv-

ing on the street. Giving back to those in need, particularly young children, has been the highlight of his career.

Individuals like John Douglas who prioritize service over self in order to create a better life for individuals and better community for all their neighbors, especially those who are underserved and underrepresented, are commendable for so many reasons. Not only has he had an immediate and positive effect on the kids and families he serves through the Wilkie House, but the whole of Des Moines is better off because of his ongoing efforts. I'm proud to count John as a neighbor and thank him for his dedication. It is my honor to name him our Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING MONA SHORES' SAILORS FOOTBALL STATE TITLE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the Mona Shores' Sailors on their incredible second consecutive D-2 football state title at Ford Field in Detroit, MI.

This team has shown a great level of resilience and skill throughout this past year. Notably, the Sailors put together a perfect season despite the challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, boasting a 12-0 record, which is the best record in school history.

I would like to congratulate each player and coach of the Mona Shores' Sailors who played an integral role in capturing the state title:

Players: Keondre Pierce, Larry White, Gary Humphrey, Landon Thalman, Khyree Hamel, Demetri Roberson, Mark Konecny, Eli Farnum, Keegan Dekuiper, Dahmir Farnum, Minh Nguyen, Benjamin Payne, Jeff Lenartowicz, Elijah Johnson, KeWaun Farnum, Brady Rose, Karsen Marihugh, TaVonie Jackson, Drew Sandberg, Stephen Koziak, Sam Wahlberg, DJ Caviness, Bryce Sikkenga, Jesse Love, Theartric Theus III, Mason Klos, Kemper Millis, Dauson Trigg, Cody Crites, Luke Emmons, and Andrew Grimm.

Coaches: Matt Koziak, Aaron James, Brian Sikkenga, Greg Vargas, Dave Check, Kyle Brott, Tyler Vanbergen, Mike Koziak, Thom Grimm, and Chris Hilliker.

Team Support: Jack Nummerdor, Dan Schroeder, Jason Dykstra, Rick McAdams, Jimmy Merrill, Patrick Lamay, Carson Koziak, Braden Koziak, Payton Koziak, and Samuel Sikkenga.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Mona Shores Sailors on their second consecutive Division 2 football state title, and for being a Michigan symbol of resilience in the face of this ongoing pandemic.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIANNA "GEORGIE" CARTER-KRELL IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize Georgianna "Georgie" Carter-Krell, whose dedication to our nation's veterans, amidst her own personal tragedy, has had a significant impact on our country and South Florida.

Born in Massachusetts on August 25, 1932, Georgie and her three children moved to Florida in the 1960s, and they quickly found themselves living in Hialeah. Georgie's only son, Bruce Wayne Carter, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1968 to defend his nation during the Vietnam War. Private First Class Carter served in Company H, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, and was killed in action on August 7, 1969 in the Quang Tri Province. At the young age of nineteen, PFC Carter put the lives of his fellow soldiers ahead of his own, and, when ambushed, used his own body to shield his men from an enemy grenade. He was buried with Military Funeral Honors on August 25, 1969 at the Vista Memorial Gardens in Miami Lakes, Florida.

PFC Carter's heroic act quickly reached the White House, where, in 1971, Bruce was posthumously awarded our nation's highest recognition, the Medal of Honor. In the years that followed Bruce's death, Georgie truly turned her grief into action and became an advocate for our veterans. Initially, she volunteered with her neighbor at the Miami VA hospital and assisted those who had strokes or other injuries which prevented them from feeding themselves. They quickly became known as the Silver Spoons and traveled throughout the nation to VA hospitals promoting this program. Georgie became an integral member of the American Gold Star Mothers, where she served as the National President twice, in 2001 and 2008. With the help of former Congresswoman, and my good friend, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the Miami VA Hospital was renamed the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center in 2008.

While Georgie became a steadfast voice for those who needed her most, she continued to regret that her son was buried in Florida and not at Arlington National Cemetery. As a result, Georgie worked with my team and me to have Bruce's remains transferred to Arlington, and, on November 4, 2020, PFC Carter was laid to rest with Military Funeral Honors at Arlington National Cemetery. This act served as an important reminder to all that a soldier's life is always valued, no matter how much time has passed.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to know Mrs. Carter-Krell and I commend her for her dedication to preserving her son's memory and her unwavering support for our veterans. Georgie is a true patriot and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.